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Serial No. 10/734,888
Art Unit: 3617 Examiner: Andrew D. Wright
Atty Docket: AMG.4011.PAT

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-7 (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A wake control mechanism for a watercraft, the wake control mechanism comprising:

one or more length adjustable rods and one or more connections with fixed lengths attached to a stern of the watercraft; and

one or more wake control plates that are adapted to couple with the watercraft via the one or more connections with fixed lengths; can be positioned in a body of water by the one or more length adjustable rods; can be submersed under the stern of the watercraft and can be controlled independently to produce a negative lift to force the stern of the watercraft into ~~the~~ body of the water to increase a size of a wake created by the watercraft;

wherein the one or more connections with fixed lengths attach to non-rigid joints on the one or more wake control plates and rotating joints on the stern of the watercraft, where the non-rigid joints are connections that allow the one or more connections with fixed lengths a first angular displacement in one plane and a second angular displacement in the direction perpendicular to the one plane and the rotating joints are connections which let the one or more connections with fixed lengths rotate a third angular displacement about the rotating joints.

9. (Currently Amended) The wake control mechanism as described in claim 8 wherein the one or more length adjustable rods connect to other non-rigid joints on both the wake control plate and the stern of the watercraft, where the other non-rigid joints are connections that allow the length adjustable rods ~~a first angular displacement to displace angularly~~ in one plane and a ~~second angular displacement to displace angularly~~ in the direction perpendicular to the one plane.

10-16. (Cancelled)

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17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling a size of a wake of a watercraft, the apparatus comprising:

a wake control plate for scooping water, wherein the wake control plate comprises a curved wake control plate adapted to increase a magnitude of a negative lift when a front edge of the wake control plate is submersed into a body of the water, wherein the curved wake control plate comprises a curvature adapted to conform to a bottom edge of a stern of the watercraft; and

one or more arms to couple with the wake control plate, wherein at least one of the one or more arms has an adjustable length adapted to position ~~[[a]]the~~ front edge of the wake control plate, with respect to a direction of motion, into ~~[[a]]the~~ body of the water to scoop the water, wherein scooping the water provides ~~[[a]]the~~ negative lift that lowers ~~[[a]]the~~ stern of the watercraft into the body of the water to increase the size of the wake.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the wake control plate couples with the arms via one or more non-rigid joints, wherein the non-rigid joints have an angular flexibility in a plane perpendicular to a plane of the adjustable length to increase ~~[[a]]the~~ magnitude of the negative lift.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the one or more arms comprises a first arm to couple with a back end of the wake control plate with respect to the direction of motion, having an adjustable length to adjust an angle of the wake control plate with respect to a transom of the watercraft.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the first arm is adapted to lower the front edge of the wake control plate to a height essentially of a bottom of the transom of the watercraft and positioning the back end of the wake control plate at or below the height to utilize the wake control plate as a trim tab.

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21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the wake control plate [[is]]comprises at least one flat wake control plate.

22-23 (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the wake control plate comprises one or more walls adapted to accumulate the water to produce the negative lift.

25-32 (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A watercraft for controlling a size of a wake in a body of water, the watercraft comprising:

one or more arms pivotally coupled with the watercraft, at least one of which has an adjustable length;

a wake control plate coupled with the one or more arms, for scooping the water, wherein the wake control plate comprises a curved wake control plate adapted to increase a magnitude of a negative lift when a front edge of the wake control plate is submersed into the body of the water, wherein the curved wake control plate comprises a curvature adapted to conform to a bottom edge of a stern of the watercraft; and

a driver coupled with the one or more arms to adjust [[a]]the adjustable length of the at least one of the one or more arms to position the front edge of the wake control plate into the body of the water to scoop the water to produce [[a]]the negative lift, wherein the negative lift lowers [[a]]the stern of the watercraft further into the body of the water to adjust the size of the wake.

34. (Currently Amended) The watercraft of claim 33, wherein the wake control plate couples with the arms via one or more non-rigid joints, wherein the non-rigid joints have a [[n]] port-to-starboard angular flexibility in a plane parallel to a plane of a surface of the body of the water.

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35. (Currently Amended) The watercraft of claim 33, wherein a first arm of the one or more arms ~~has an~~ is length adjustable length to adjust an angle of the wake control plate with respect to the stern of the watercraft.

36. (Currently Amended) The watercraft of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 35, wherein the first arm ~~of the one or more arms~~ is adapted to lower the front edge of the wake control plate to a height of ~~[[a]]~~ the bottom edge of the stern of the watercraft and position~~[[ing]]~~ a back end of the wake control plate at or below the height to utilize the wake control plate as a trim tab.

37. (Currently Amended) The watercraft of claim 33, wherein the wake control plate comprises at least one wake control plate that is flat.

38-39 (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) The watercraft of claim 33, wherein the wake control plate comprises one or more walls adapted to accumulate the water to increase ~~[[a]]~~ the magnitude of the negative lift.

41. (Previously Presented) The watercraft of claim 33, wherein submersion of the wake control plate and another wake control plate is adapted to adjust a shape of the wake.

42. (Cancelled)